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JAN 20 1954

TO: Chief of Base 

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FROM: Chief, EE

SUBJECT: General - ~~(Operational~~
Specific - Caching)

REFERENCE:  dated 21 October 1953

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1. Discussions have been held with KURIOT regarding improved materials and techniques for indigenous caching. It appears that three methods of packaging should be considered, as follows:-
 - a. Hot-Dip. Object is cleaned and wrapped with aluminum foil, then dipped in a hot liquid plastic in a specially-designed tank.
 - b. Flexible Barrier Material Wrap. Object is cleaned, wrapped in greaseproof material, and desiccant is added. It is then heat-sealed inside Barrier Material, Flexible, Water- Vapor-proof, Heavy Duty, and placed in wooden cases employing no liner.
 - c. Special Container. Objects are placed, with desiccant, in stainless steel, waterproof containers, specially designed by KURIOT.
2. Method 1a is considered as possibly the most satisfactory, if properly done, and has the advantage that the necessary equipment is more readily available than for the other methods. The only equipment which might not be immediately available is the special tank, with a stirring device to keep the plastic in proper condition. One of these tanks was used in Germany and is believed to be still there, although its condition is not known. This will be ascertained, and if suitable, a request will be made

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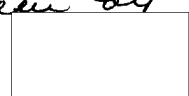
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that it be shipped [] If not suitable, an order will be immediately placed for a new tank, cost about \$3300 which should be received by you in sufficient time to repackage in the Spring. Method 1a, however, would have to be supplemented by one or both of the other methods for packaging items such as grenades and detonator caps which might be dangerous to package by the hot-dip method. This might also include plastic explosive, primacord and ammunition. However, ammunition has been packaged [] by hot-dip, and it is believed the other items, except detonator caps, could also be hot-dipped without danger if done under supervision of a qualified individual and using proper safeguard.

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3. Method 1b would be entirely suitable to supplement 1a. The new heavy-duty wrapping material consists of two layers of foil and two layers of nylon cloth, laminated by vinyl plastic, can sustain rough handling, and does not decay during burial. Unfortunately, there is no stockpile of this material, and an order in sufficient quantity to reduce cost to a reasonable figure will have to be placed. It is expected that the material will be forthcoming in time for the packaging operation.
4. Method 1c is another suitable method for those items which cannot be hot-dipped. The sample containers produced are watertight and should not corrode during burial. The closure is simple and readily opened. Inside dimensions are 7 x 9 x 16 inches, and weight slightly over 7 lbs. Here again an order would have to be placed, and it is believed could be filled in time. Two of these containers will be forwarded to you by air in about six weeks, and we request your opinion of their suitability for caching purposes.
5. It is our feeling that we should proceed with all three methods, placing the necessary orders now. These orders will be placed immediately. In this way, the hot-dip method would constitute the main effort, using the other two methods to supplement it for the most sensitive items and to the extent possible according to the quantities of each available when needed.
6. Detailed procedures for all of the methods will be furnished you in the interim. In addition, a representative from KURIOT will be available and could be sent on TDY to give initial supervision to the technical aspects of the packaging operations, if desired.
7. In the event that difficulty is encountered in obtaining the 4-ply material and containers in time for this Spring recaching, KURIOT and TR(S) have several alternative methods of packaging small quantities of sensitive equipment such as detonators on an improvised basis, details of which can be furnished you when necessary.

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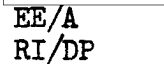
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8. Please advise headquarters by cable of your confirmation of this course of action, as well as the following information:
- a. Is it your intention to recache ultimately all of caches laid down in 1951, 1952 and 1953?
 - b. What is the latest data at which repackaging must begin? Please do not advance this unnecessarily as a safety factor, as it might adversely affect our course of action.
 - c. Do you wish a KURIOT representative to attend (See para. 6 above).

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18 January 1954

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